

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 HA-02 EUR-08 H-01
INR-05 PA-01 SP-02 ICA-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 DPW-01 /051 W
-----113263 161518Z /72

P R 161405Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4327

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0954

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, GV

SUBJECT: MAY 14 AMNESTY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: CONAKRY 0909 (NOTAL)

1. IN MAJOR FURTHER MOVE TOWARD INTERNAL RECONCILIATION, PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE HAS AMNESTIED AND RELEASED ANOTHER LARGE GROUP OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, MANY OF THEM PROMINENT, ON OCCASION OF GUINEAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S 31ST ANNIVERSARY MAY 14. RELEASES ACTUALLY BEGAN MAY 11. APPROXIMATELY 95 "POLITICALS" ACCOMPANY A PARALLEL AMNESTY OF SOME HUNDRED CRIMINAL (NON-POLITICAL) PRISONERS THROUGHOUT GUINEA, ACCORDING TO A MININT SOURCE. CURRENT RELEASES, WHICH EXCEED EVEN LAST DECEMBER'S, WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE LARGEST IN GUINEA'S HISTORY.

2. AMONG NOTABLES, ACCORDING TO USUALLY RELIABLE GOG
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SOURCE, ARE SEVERAL RANKING OFFICIALS JAILED AFTER AUGUST 1977 RIOTS OF MARKET WOMEN: EX-MINISTER OF TRANSPORT SAIKOU THIAM, AND HIMY TOURE, EX-FEDERAL SECRETARY OF FORECARIAH, AS WELL AS EX-MERCHANT EL HADJ SANKOUMBO CAMARA. (THUS, APPARENTLY ONLY ONE PRINCIPAL ARRESTEE FROM FALL 1977 REMAINS IN CUSTODY, CHERIF NABANIOU, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL

MUSLIM COUNCIL).

3. ALSO PROMINENT AMONG PRISONERS REPORTEDLY AMNESTIED
ARE:

-- FODE CISSE, EX-MINISTER OF LABOR AND DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF INFORMATION (ARRESTED 1970) (ILHR REPORT, APPENDIX
I(A), PAGE 5, NO. 8 LISTS PERSON OF SAME NAME AS
BEING DECEASED):

--BOUBACAR BARRY, EX-DIRECTOR OF CABINET AT PRESIDENCY
(1970 (ILHR REPORT, APPENDIX I(A), PAGE 2, NO. 23):

--IBRAHIMA DIAWAUA, BUILDING ENGINEER AND EX-CONSTRUCTION
ADVISOR IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE:

--SEKOU SY, EX-COMMISSAR OF SECURITY AT PRESIDENCY
(1970) POSSIBLY ILHR, APPENDIX I(B), PAGE 14, NO. 293):

--MAMADOU CISSE, EX-FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
AT KANKAN (1970):

--EL HADJ DOUMBOUYA, WEALTHY EX-MERCHANT
AND VILLA OWNER (1970):

--OURY BELA SOW, EX-CHIEF OF CABINET, MINISTER OF
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INTERIOR (1970);

--LAMINE KEITA, EX-INSPECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (1970);

--VARIMA BALDE, EX-MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT
N'ZEREKORE-MACENTA;

--LOUIS AKIN, EX-DIRECTOR GENERAL OF "VOICE OF
REVOLUTION" RADIO (1970) (ILHR REPORT, APPENDIX I(A),
PAGE 4, NO. 63 LISTS HIM AS IVORIAN, EX-CINEMA DIRECTOR);

--BAKARY CAMARA, EX-MINISTER OF PUBLIC COLLECTIVITY
(AND YOUNGER BROTHER OF BALA CAMARA, EX-MINISTER OF
PLAN, ALSO IMPRISONED), (1970 OR 1971) (ILHR REPORT,
APPENDIX I(A), PAGE 9, NO. 46);

--IBRAHIMA FOFANA, EX-DIRECTOR OF CABINET, MINISTRY
OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LABE (1971);

--MAMADOU OURY DIALLO, EX-INSPECTOR GENERAL OF
ADMINISTRATIVE-FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, CONAKRY (1970)

(POSSIBLY ILHR REPORT, APPENDIX I(B), PAGE 10, NO. 180);

--OUMAR BALDE, PROFESSOR, CONAKRY UNIVERSITY
(BROTHER OF (FNU) BAH, EX-SECRETARY GENERAL OF SENEGAL
RIVER PACT ORGANIZATION);

--IBRAHIMA DIANE, EX-MERCHANT (1970) (POSSIBLY ILHR,
APPENDIX I(B), PAGE 11, NO. 202);

--(FNU) DIAWARA, SON-IN-LAW OF DAMANTANG CAMARA,
PRESIDENT OF GUINEA'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND PARTY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, VIA LATTER'S ELDEST DAUGHTER.

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4. AKIN, CAMARA, FOFANA, AND PERHAPS OTHERS ABOVE
WERE IMPLICATED IN THE "SEIBOLD PLOT" SOON AFTER
THE 1970 PORTUGUESE-BACKED ASSAULT ON CONAKRY AND WERE
AMONG FIRST WAVES OF ARRESTEES.

5. MORE "POLITICALS" ARE SLATED TO BE RELEASED SOON
IN CONNECTION WITH MAY 14 CELEBRATION, ACCORDING TO
MININT SOURCE. MOST IMPORTANT IS CATHOLIC
ARCHBISHOP OF CONAKRY RAYMOND TCHIDIMBO.
TCHIDIMBO'S RELEASE HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF PROTRACTED
NEGOTIATION WITH VATICAN MOSTLY RECENTLY UNDER
LIBERIAN GOOD OFFICES. TCHIDIMBO, WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN
ESPECIALLY FAVORED TREATMENT IN CAMP BOIRO DURING THE
PAST FEW YEARS, WAS THOUGHT TO BE NEAR RELEASE IN APRIL,
BUT PREMATURE LEAKS TO FRENCH MEDIA MAY BE DELAYING
IT SOMEWHAT, POSSIBLY OWING TO PRESIDENT TOURE'S
IRRITATION OVER SEEMING BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY.
MININT SOURCE ALSO CLAIMS KARIM BANGOURA IS ON "LIST"
HE HAD SEEN OF THOSE TO BE LIBERATED BEFORE NEXT PARTY
CONGRESS NOW SCHEDULED FOR LATTER PART SEPTEMBER.
CROSBY

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